MARVEL
4
ULTIMATE
SPIDER-MAN
BULLETIN
ROXXON
J.J.Jameson
ATTACK
WHO IS SPIDER-
by Ben Parker
HICKMAN
MESSINA | WILSON
APR. 2024 | RATED T

IN MEMORIAM

PAUL NEARY

1949 - 2024

"Paul Neary was my mentor, colleague and friend, but much more than that, he totally changed the trajectory of my life when he chose me to redesign and draw the Captain Britain relaunch by Marvel UK in 1981 and subsequently encouraged me to pursue a career in comics. Paul's knowledge of comics was unsurpassed. He achieved success in every discipline: writing, penciling, inking, coloring, lettering and editing. But arguably, his greatest achievement was during his tenures as editor in chief at Marvel UK when he created the environment and opportunities for numerous European artists to learn their craft and move on to success in American comics. Condolences to Paul's wife, Bernie Jaye."

— ALAN DAVIS

"Paul Neary changed my life forever. At a time when I had lost all faith in my ability as an artist, he saw my potential and nurtured it, launching what has now been a three-decades-long career in U.S. comics. Paul was a talented writer and artist, a brilliant inker, a hysterical storyteller and a visionary editor in chief, but more than that, he was a friend."

— LIAM SHARP

PENCILER • INKER • WRITER • EDITOR

APRIL

...at least it gave us an excuse to get outta the house. *Dress up a little.*
That's true, and *I must* say...
...you clean up ***very nicely,*** Mr. Parker.
Well, I run with a tough crowd. I'm just trying to keep up.
There he is.
Sorry I'm late.

Hey, Harry. How's it going?
Doing well. Doing well...
You find the place all right?
We did. *Pretty nice.* I don't think they wanted to let me in, but they relented when I gave 'em your name.
Sorry about that. The crowd here can be a bit insufferable.
Just awful people, really.
Yeah?
Uh-huh. I eat here at least once a week.
So what are we drinking?
Probably a lot.
Harry, I want you to meet my wife. This is MJ.
It's very nice to meet you, Harry.
Pleasure's all mine. Peter has told me all about you. Honestly, he won't shut up about it...
The man's obsessed, I think.

Well, I hear most people call that being in love.
I'll admit, it's had a bit of a branding issue lately...
But you're *on the job.*
Speaking of, congrats on your new business. I love it when people bet on themselves.
Thanks. If I work hard enough, sometimes I forget how terrified I am.
Well...
I hear most people call that being excited.
I can see why you like him.
So... I thought your wife was coming?
She had a business thing uptown.
It should only be a few more... *Ah...!*
Here she is now.
Peter. MJ. *This is my wife...*

...Gwen Stacy.
Sorry I'm late. Things got a little complicated.
Hello. You must be Peter.
Hi. This is MJ.
Hey there.
What was the holdup with the meeting?
Oh, you know, old-school executive types... I tried the carrot, but they wanted the stick.
Nothing to worry about. So...*should* we eat...?
I'm starving.

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Twenty years ago, **THE MAKER** prevented a radioactive spider from biting a young **PETER PARKER**. He likewise prevented the creation of any other super heroes and formed a secret council to rule the world from the shadows.

Three months ago, **TONY STARK** sent Peter—now a married father of two—that same radioactive spider along with a picotech suit and warnings of **THE MAKER'S COUNCIL**. The spider's bite gifted Peter incredible powers that he used to aid a masked vigilante called **GREEN GOBLIN** against an assassin sent by **WILSON FISK**, an agent of the Maker's Council.

Somehow, Green Goblin was able to take control of Peter's picotech suit and expose his identity. But he also revealed himself as **HARRY OSBORN**, the billionaire heir of **OSCORP INDUSTRIES**...

WRITER: **JONATHAN HICKMAN**
GUEST ARTIST: **DAVID MESSINA**

COLOR ARTIST: **MATTHEW WILSON**
LETTERER: **VC's CORY PETIT**
COVER ARTISTS: **MARCO CHECCHETTO & MATTHEW WILSON**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS: **SANFORD GREENE; MATEUS MANHANINI; KAEL NGU; ELIZABETH TORQUE & IAN HERRING**

DESIGN: **JAY BOWEN**
ASSISTANT EDITOR: **MICHELLE MARCHESE**
EDITOR: **WIL MOSS**
EDITOR IN CHIEF: **C.B. CEBULSKI**

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY **STAN LEE** & **STEVE DITKO**

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Oh my god.
This is... *amazing.*
Yeah. Chef's pretty great. She's from Argentina, I think?
Uruguay.
It's been a while since we've... *Actually,* when was the last time we went out?
On a *date* date? Beekay, baby.
Beekay?
What's...? Ah, **before kids.**
You got it.
Do you two have any?
Children? No. I'd like to think I'd be a good mom, but none for us yet.
We're considering it though.
Well, it's just the **best thing ever.**
What's the *holdup?*

The world we'd be bringing them into.
Sure. I get it. Very "of the times"...
It's a scary proposition, either way... How long have you guys been married?
Oh, who can say. Hard to keep track when every day is a dream.
Eight years. Three months. And ten, no, eleven days.
Two leap years. Not one.
The culmination of a lifelong pursuit.
But enough about us, MJ. Spill it...
What?
We all know what Peter's up to. Let's hear how your business is going.
What's this?
MJ started a PR firm.
She's a bit of a marketing genius.

How nice.
How'd you get into that?
I used to model a little. It was fine, but while I was doing that, I started handling my own branding. People liked what I did, word got around...
...then I got picked up by Bayham-Laroche and worked there for a while. After that, I got poached by Altmann, Smith and Altmann for their executive suite about five years ago.
Really? Now that's an interesting place. I think Harry's dad used them a few times.
"Interesting." Now that's a very polite way to describe a crisis management firm.
It starts with "you can pick your own clients" and eventually turns into "just make the problem go away." It was gross. Super gross. I just couldn't do it anymore. So off I went.
Good for you.
So who you got? Client-wise?
Well, I'm on retainer at Damage Control. But other than that, it's all one-offs and irons in the fire.
Except I just...
Peter, is it okay to talk about this?
Sure. Why not?
I mean, you can't hurt their feelings, and they don't change their minds, so...
Last week I started helping out Peter's uncle, Ben Parker, and J. Jonah Jameson.
They're starting their own news outfit.
We just settled on a name.

Loveme
I don't get it...
We're doin' the news online--*not in print, which I'm still not okay with*--and she wants to call it..."***The Paper***"?
Is it supposed to be ironic or something?
It was nice of you to stop by just to complain about this, Jonah.
ULTIMATE BEER
And I think the word she used was *meta.*
It's both. *Actually.*
I dunno. It feels very...clever. And you know how I hate that...
I do. I do. But it also has that *certain* ***something*** to it, doesn't it? Not elitist. For the masses. Very *everyman.*
Yeah. *Maybe.* I do like that it's kind of generic in the right way. Not the other way, where you take out a vowel so you can trademark it or something. P-A-P-R. That nonsense.
I'd die of embarrassment.
Uncle Ben?
Yes, dear?
Is he going to be leaving soon?

The Paper. Sounds great.
I know I get up every day and say to myself:
"What I really need in my life is more news." I mean, I just love it so much.
You're being rude, Harry.
I'm joking, dear.
Dad always said Ben was the salt of the earth. I just hope it goes well. Not sure if this is the right market.
Too competitive?
Closed system.
You'll see.
I dunno, depends on what they cover. Depends on how deep they like to dig.
I can think of a few reasons why a couple of crusty old guys with nothing to lose might be useful.
Keep going. Grist for the mill...
Well, take the pictures Peter's been shooting of that masked man swinging through the sky.
Killer eye, by the way.

Oh, you know, I just point and shoot.
He means "thank you."
I do. Thanks.
You're welcome. Anyway, if you look at the coverage of it, it's sanitized. Surrounded.
It's not that the stories are corporate-- they are, of course-- but they're intentionally obtuse. They all miss the point of the masked man.
Which is?
That he exists for a reason. That there must be a point to him. A purpose.
For someone-- or someones--he's fulfilling a need. For good or for bad.
Now, I like to think he isn't a bad guy. But in a lot of ways, him being a good guy would be more upsetting to certain people...
It implies that something's wrong with the world, and maybe he's what we're looking for. A cure for what ails us.
I can see you've thought about this quite a bit.
People need heroes, Peter.
And if your uncle's going to report on that, good for him. Maybe you could let them use some of your photos.

But I work for the *Bugle*.
And you always will with an attitude like that.
Hey, CEO of a billion-dollar company. Go easy on the working folk.
But... she's not wrong.
Fair enough. I've said my piece, and with that...I need to visit the ladies.
Oh. I'll come with.
You two behave.

She really doesn't like Mr. Jameson.
In all fairness, kiddo, she ain't the only person on that plane.
What do you think about 'im?
I think what the two of you are doing is really cool, Uncle Ben.
Yeah, well, that's just because you read a lot.
Everybody should read a lot.
Sure. But you gotta give 'em a reason to.
Which can be a little tricky.
So...
You got an hour before you have to be in bed...wanna watch some TV?
...
No.
Good man.

Love that color on you.
Thanks.
...
Can I ask you something?
...
Sure. Go right ahead.
Am I coming on too strong? Sometimes I come on a little strong. I think it's mostly a corporate thing, but I tend to have trouble switching it off.
And, you know, on top of that, I clearly have opinions, so... *too much?*
I'm good.
Great. Because I was hoping to ask for a favor and that's hard to do if things were going the other way.
...
How can I help?

You probably know this, but if you didn't, Oscorp took over Stane/Stark a few months ago. Since then, we've scaled up in some unexpected ways.
To be blunt, we have too much money. And now I need to get some off the books, but I've exhausted all the normal charities, donations and various nonprofits...
...and tonight's conversation got me thinking of you.
What? No...
Peter and I would never take any--
Oh...
Sorry. *No.* That's not what I meant.
Because that would be weird, right?
Yeah.
So, what were...?
I was hoping-- *since you're their brand manager--*
--that you could set something up between me and the grumpy old men of *The Paper.*
I'm kinda in the mood to see if I can launch a pirate ship.

What are you smiling at?
You...
...haven't told her yet. *Have you?*
...
No, I... *Wait.* You told Gwen?
Yeah.
How much?
Everything.
Oh god, Harry. What're you thinking...?

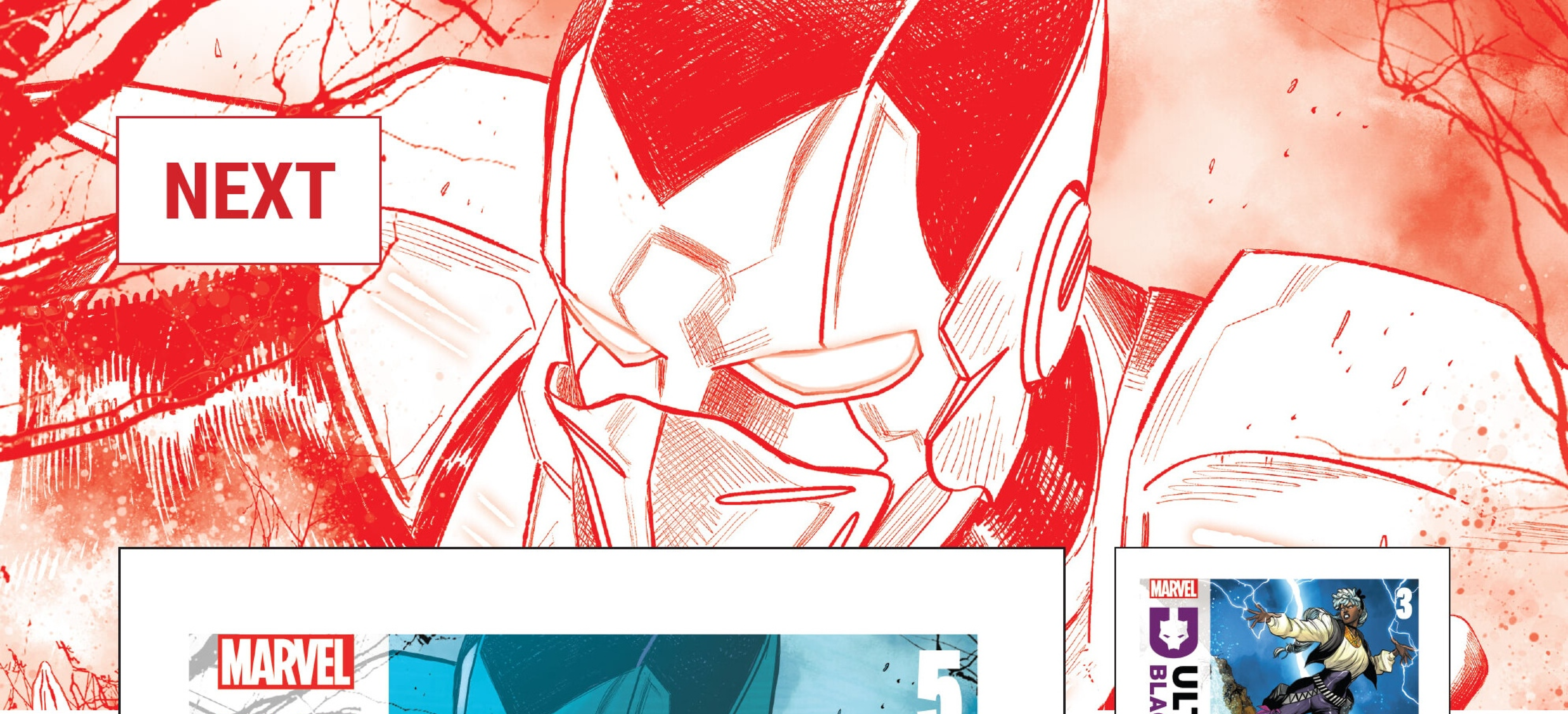
I'm thinking that I love my wife and we don't have secrets between us. Are you really telling me you haven't told anyone?
No one knows?
...
My kid caught me in my costume.
Well, thank god. For a second there, I thought you were gonna lecture me about the importance of keeping secrets and whatnot.
It *is* important.
And I haven't told MJ because... *Look,* it's not that I don't trust her or anything-- *that would be ridiculous...*
But I have to protect them, don't I?
You seriously think you can live this life and insulate the people you love from the consequences?
I don't even know for sure that I want to do *this*... whatever *this* is.
Pfft. I've seen you in action, pal. Yeah, you do.
And if I'm brave enough to do it, you sure should be.

And why is that?
Because, at the end of the day, I'm just a guy in a suit.
And you--*with your...abilities*--are a good bit more than that.
It's all on us, pal.
To do what?
Save the world.
Well, thank god. For a second there, I thought you were gonna lay something heavy on me.
Harry, for the first time in my life, I'm doing something I'm good at.
Stopping bad people from doing bad things feels right. What you're talking about... I *dunno*...it sounds ***too big.***
I'm not gonna tell you what you ***have*** to do, Peter. ***Or how to do it.*** It's not my place, and it's not my call...
You have to decide that.
Nobody's forcing you to come along for the ride...

...but you need to understand where this is headed and what we're up against.
These people...
They're playing god, and they're playing for keeps. And worse than that, they've been doing it our whole lives.
It's institutional. It's systemic. It's the whole damn world.
And you...
...you have *great* power, Peter.
And with ***great power*** comes ***great responsibility.***
It's such a gift...
...but only if you ***use it.***

Later.
Xi'an Famous Foods
WESTERN CHINESE CUISINE
mozzarella & vino
So...
What'd you think?
They were nice. *Kind of...*
Actually, they were a little...
Scary?
Yes!
It was like equal parts too personal and too intense...but with really great food.
Yeah. It was a *lot.*
...
What'd you think of what they were saying?

About?
The world needing heroes.
What do I need heroes for, Peter?
I've got you.
TO BE CONTINUED...



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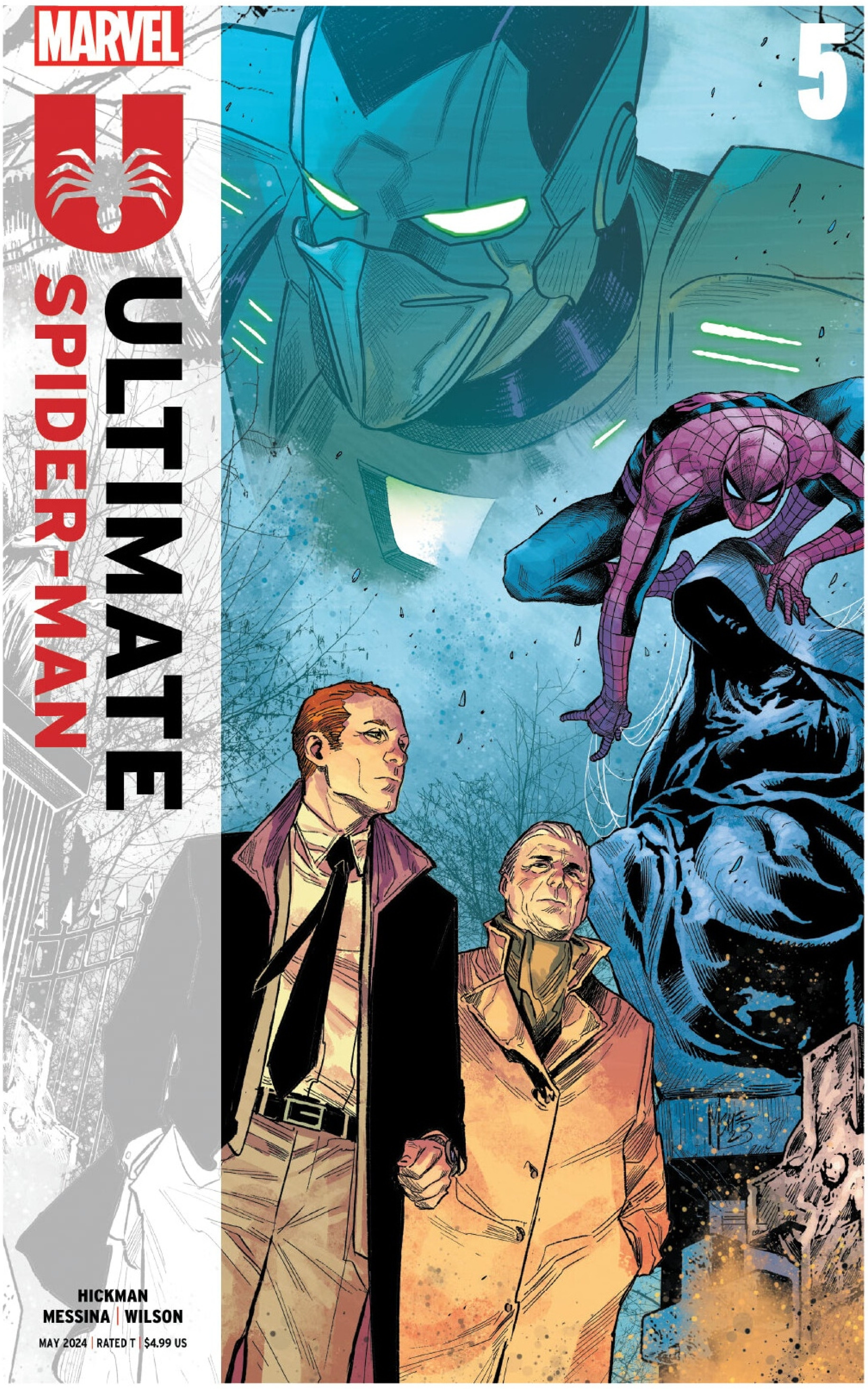
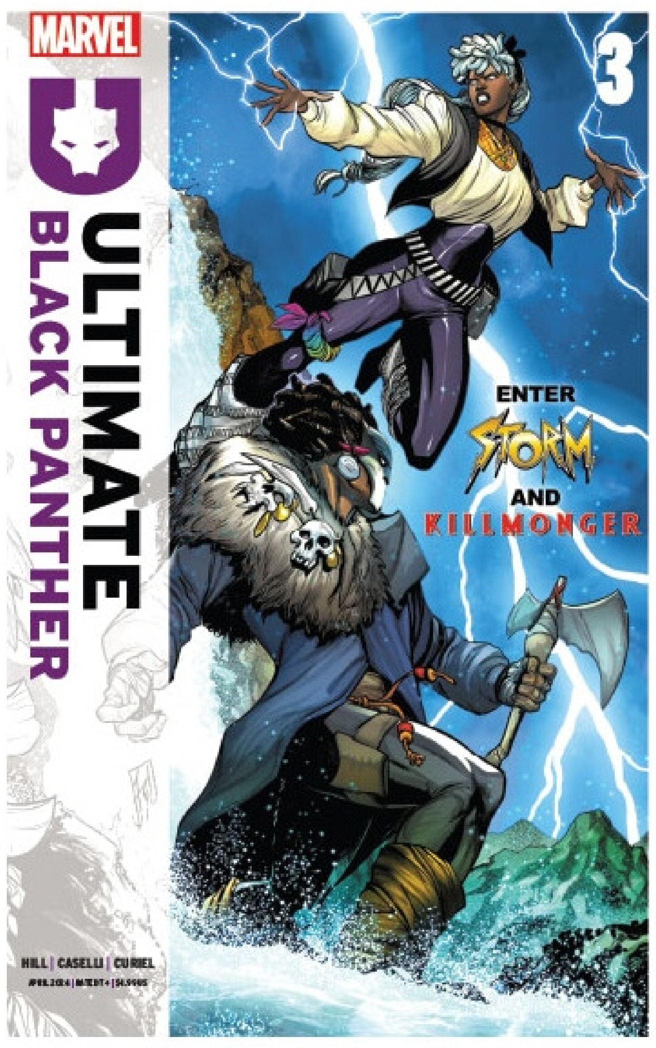


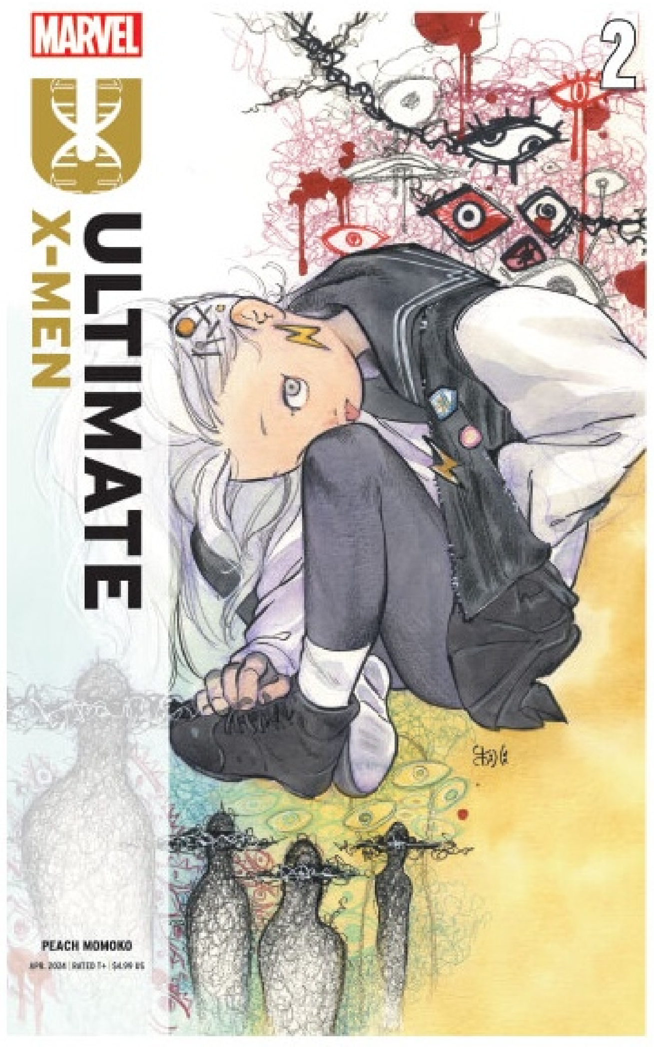
ON SALE IN **MAY**
AND THEN IN JUNE, **MARCO CHECCHETTO** RETURNS TO DRAW #6!



ULTIMATE BLACK PANTHER #3

BY **BRYAN HILL** & **STEFANO CASELLI**

ON SALE THIS MONTH



ULTIMATE X-MEN #2

BY **PEACH MOMOKO**

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AND MARK YOUR LETTERS **"OKAY TO PRINT"**!